

First Annual Conference

State University of New York at New Paltz

April 12-14, 2007

(Note that this online version of the program was designed to have all needed information available in a timely manner. A more polished version will be created and distributed at the conference in April)

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Welcome to NEEPS 2007!

On behalf of the inaugural programming committee of the NorthEastern Evolutionary Society (NEEPS), I am extremely happy to welcome you to SUNY New Paltz for our first annual conference. Evolutionary Psychology represents a major intellectual step in understanding ourselves. If you're as passionate about Evolutionary Psychology as I am, you likely agree that this field represents a revolutionary approach to unlocking the mysteries of the human mind.

Evolutionary Psychology is a fast-growing field—a fact that's not surprising when you consider how engrossing it can be. Through careful theoretical and empirical work, evolutionary psychologists have provided new insights into such disparate and fascinating areas as why we love our children, why we lie, why we sing, why we pray, and why we dance. Evolutionary psychologists help us understand why people write poetry, create artistic masterpieces, and why we focus so much on mating in our daily lives. Evolutionary psychology also sheds light on why people demonstrate the highest moral standards of behavior at times while engaging in morally abhorrent behavior, such as murder, at others. And this represents only the tip of the iceberg!

After I attended my first-ever HBES meeting with three of my students in June of 2006, I felt I'd totally found my intellectual home. It immediately made sense to me that regional organizations in Evolutionary Psychology would have the capacity to bring together evolutionary psychologists in relatively small, less formal, and more accessible venues—a fact that would surely pay intellectual dividends. “Why not start one?!” I thought.

So I spoke with several of my students who are interested in evolutionary psychology—they were with me. I emailed HBES president David Buss to get his thoughts, and he responded with enthusiastic support. Other evolutionary psychologists in the Northeast were also thumbs up. In fact, David Sloan Wilson was quite willing to serve as our initial keynote speaker—a major step. When I asked Gordon Gallup to help me launch this initiative, he was immediately on board - I knew this was one of my better ideas—and I knew this project was going somewhere.

Evolutionary Psychology needs people to rally behind it. In modern intellectual circles, the only thing that seems to be growing as quickly as Evolutionary Psychology is the resistance to it. In a particularly telling passage Richard Dawkins (2005) recently wrote, “Evolutionary psychology (is) ... subject to a level of implacable hostility which seems far out of proportion to anything even sober reason or common politeness might sanction” (p. 975).

With the simple truth of “Think Global, Act Local” in mind, the creation of this first regional organization for Evolutionary Psychology is designed to be an important step toward helping this field reach its potential in enabling us to understand human nature. I hope this conference at New Paltz is a first step of many toward that goal.

On behalf of our local host committee (Alice Andrews, Michael Camargo, Michelle Coombs, Heather Mangione, and myself) – and the **outstanding** ad hoc inaugural NEEPS programming committee (co-chaired by Holly Nelson and Rosemarie Sokol), welcome to New Paltz!

Sincerely,
Glenn Geher, Conference Organizer - Evolutionary Psychologist

Sponsors

Offices of SUNY New Paltz:



Academic Affairs, Anthropology Department, Biology Department, Honors Program, Major Connections, Psychology Department,

Offices of SUNY Albany:



Anthropology Department, Psychology Department

Bacchus: The official pub of NEEPS:



Bacchus (4 South Chestnut St., Downtown New Paltz)

** show your membership badge during the dates of the conference to receive a dollar off beer, wine, or mixed drinks (not valid in conjunction with other discounts).*

The Inn at Orchard Heights, New Paltz, NY and The Minnewaska Lodge, Gardiner, NY

Acknowledgements

Program Committee

Eric Bressler, Michael Camargo, Kelly Carrone, Michelle Coombs, Maryanne Fisher (Membership Officer), Glenn Geher (Chair, Conference Organizer), Cezar Giosan, Satoshi Kanazawa, Amy LeFevre, Christopher Lynn (Program Coordinator), Heather Mangione, Richard Michalski, Holly Nelson (Chair), Rosemarie I. Sokol (Chair), Sarah L. Strout (Treasurer), Daniel White, David Zehr

Local Hosts

Alice Andrews, Michael Camargo, Michelle Coombs, Glenn Geher, and Heather Mangione

Quick Timetable

Thursday April 12 (The College Terrace)

7:00-9:00 p.m. Welcome Reception / Registration

Friday April 13th

(Lecture Center 100)

8:30-5:00 Registration
 8:30-9:30 Refreshments
 9:30-11:00 Introductions: Glenn Geher
 SUNY New Paltz President Steven Poskanzer
 Keynote Address: David Sloan Wilson

11:00-11:30 Break (refreshments)
 11:30-12:50 Morning Session (1): *Mating Strategies*
 12:50-2:30 Lunch (on your own)
 2:30-3:50 Session 2: *All Things Evolution*
 3:50-4:30 Break

The Honors Center (in College Hall)

4:30-5:50 Session 3: *Cross-Cultural Perspective*
 6:00-7:30 The Academic Job Market (a panel discussion)
 (Burch, Deaner, Fisher, Kruger)
 (Refreshments Served)
 7:30 -- ??? Dinner on your own (Don't forget drink discount at Bacchus)

Saturday April 14th

The Honors Center (in College Hall)

9:00-10:00 Business Meeting

The Parker Theatre

9:30-10:30 POSTER SETUP
 Registration/Refreshments/
 10:30-11:50 Session 4: *Neuroscience*
 12:00-1:30 Lunch (on your own)
 1:30-3:00 Poster Session
 3:00-4:50 Session 5: *Reproductive & Survival Strategies*
 4:50-5:30 Break
 5:30-6:30 Plenary Address: Gordon Gallup, Jr.: Competition for paternity: The
 impact of evolution on human genital morphology and behavior
 6:30-??? Dinner on your own (Don't forget drink discount at Bacchus)
Conference Ends

Program of Events

Thursday, April 12

The College Terrace

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. *Welcome Reception / Registration*

Friday, April 13

Lecture Center 100

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. *Registration*

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. *Coffee*

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. *Introductions and keynote address:*

Glenn Geher, SUNY New Paltz, Department of Psychology

President Poskanzer, SUNY New Paltz

Keynote Address

David Sloan Wilson, SUNY Binghamton

Evolution and Religion: two sideshows and the main event

Evolution and Religion are perennially in the news, but not for the right reasons. On the one hand we have debates about creationism and intelligent design. On the other hand, we have attacks on religion by evolutionists such as Daniel Dennett in *Breaking the Spell* and Richard Dawkins in *The God Delusion*. Both of these are sideshows compared to the main event: The serious study of religion as a natural phenomenon from an evolutionary perspective. I will review the nascent field of evolutionary religious studies and what it means for the more general study of cultural evolution, evolutionary psychology, and the quality of everyday life.

David Sloan Wilson is Distinguished Professor of Biology with a joint appointment in Anthropology at Binghamton University. He is also founder and director of EvoS, a campus-wide program that uses evolutionary theory as a common language for studying all human-related subjects in addition to the natural world. His books include *Unto Others: The Evolution and Psychology of Unselfish Behavior* (with Elliott Sober), *Darwin's Cathedral: Evolution, Religion, and the Nature of Society*, *The Literary Animal: Evolution and the Nature of Narrative* (co-edited with Jonathan Gotschall), and—his first book for a general audience—*Evolution for Everyone: How Darwin's Theory Can Change the Way We Think About Our Lives*.

11:00 - 11:30 a.m. *Break (refreshments)*

Morning Session

11:30 a.m. -12:50 p.m.

Session 1: Mating Strategies

Recognizability: Darwin's Unnamed Innate Social Instinct

Nicholas P. Armenti, Gosnold Inc. on Cape Cod, narmenti@gosnold.org

Especially in his two works, *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex* and *The Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals* Charles Darwin discusses a very wide range of human and other animal behavior and characteristics. Darwin's recorded observations in the two works suggest that there is a very critical innate social instinct that was left unnamed by Darwin in presenting his theory of evolution. I argue that there is a large volume of data in Darwin's chronicles that supports the position that man and other animals manifest an innate, social instinct of *recognizability*. Recognizability is an instinct composed of three compelling behavioral dimensions comprising what may be called an *instinct cluster* as follows: 1. An animal's innate imperative *to actively watch and recognize other*. 2. An animal's innate stratagems *to avoid being watched and recognized by destructive others*. 3. An animal's innate drive *to be watched and recognized by others*. These instinctual behaviors are presented as advancing survival and reproductive fitness.

The role of female attractiveness and sociosexuality in men's perception of female interest.

Meaghan A. Thornhill, Meghan P. Provost Graduate student, Queen's University, Impb@qlink.queensu.ca, Department of Psychology, Queen's University, Vernon L. Quinsey, Professor, Queen's University, Vern.Quinsey@queensu.ca

In this study, we examined how third party male perceptions of female interest related to actual female romantic interest in another man. 24 men viewed videos of a couple (a female participant and one of two male confederates) in a speed dating scenario. The men rated the attractiveness of each woman, as well as how interested they believed each woman was in the man for a dating, short term, and long term relationship. Men in general overestimated female interest, but gave perceived interest ratings that were related to female actual interest for dating and long term relationships. Perceived female attractiveness and her actual sociosexual orientation also related to the male perceived interest she had in the confederate. This study is the first to compare actual female interest to male perceived interest and raises interesting questions for future research.

Assessing the recognition of alternative male mating strategies across cultures

Daniel J. Kruger, University of Michigan, djk2012@gmail.com

Previous studies have indicated that college students in the USA and Canada readily identify long-term and short-term male mating strategies represented by proper and dark heroes in 19th Century British Romantic literature. Women preferred the proper hero "dad" for long-term relationships, but were more likely to choose the dark hero "cad" for brief sexual relationships. These preferences were expected, as they benefit the women's reproductive success. Men also predicted responses to these characters in ways that would benefit their own reproductive success. Some may claim that these results reflect stereotypes deeply rooted in patriarchal Western family systems, rather than an understanding of human universals. This study replicated the original results in several non-English derived populations. Participants also accurately grouped behavioral tendencies related to high mating effort/risky strategies and high parenting effort/risk adverse strategies and associated mating effort more so with cads and parenting effort more so with dads.

High-K Reproductive Strategy as a Negative Predictor of Depressive Symptomatology

Cezar Giosan, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, cezar@giosan.com

The present study examined the associations between a high-K reproductive strategy and depressive symptomatology. The participants were a sample of 515 employees of a metro area corporation, assessed as part of annual screening physicals. It was hypothesized that high-K will correlate negatively with, and will be a negative predictor of, depressive symptomatology. The results confirmed the predictions, showing that high-K accounts for an important 20% of the variance in depressive symptomatology, after controlling for risk factors in depression, such as demographics, prior traumatic experiences, past depression and recent negative life events. This study offers support to the emerging evolutionary view that depression may have an adaptive function.

12:50 – 2:30 p.m. *Lunch (on your own)*

Afternoon Sessions**Lecture Center 100**

2:30 – 3:50 p.m.

Session 2: ALL THINGS EVOLUTION

Peer victimization, body morphology, and reproductive opportunities in college students

Daniel D. White, University at Albany, dwhite@uamail.albany.edu, *Andrew C. Gallup*, University at Albany, andyalbany07@yahoo.com, *Gordon G. Gallup, Jr.*, University at Albany, gallup@albany.edu

Experts estimate that as many as 150,000 children stay home from school each day because they fear being victimized by a peer. Peer victimization, or bullying, is a cross-cultural phenomenon documented in over 25 countries. We hypothesize that bullying derives from the evolved primate affinity for establishing social dominance hierarchies. We surveyed 150 college students (84 males and 66 females) to determine the level they bullied or were bullied in middle and high school, their sexual history, and developmental patterns. We also measured participants to determine handgrip strength, shoulder/hip, waist/hip, and 2D:4D ratios. Results reveal a high positive correlation between the level of bullying behavior and number of sex partners in both genders. In males we also found a significant positive correlation between bullying and handgrip strength and a negative correlation between bullying and left hand 2D:4D ratios. Results suggest that bullying behavior in adolescence may increase sexual opportunities.

Different Strokes: Sex Differences in Competitiveness Have Disappeared in Swimming But Not in Running

Robert O. Deaner, Grand Valley State University, robert.deaner@gmail.com

Sex differences in competitiveness and related attributes are well established. However, the extent to which such differences originate from social conditions or evolved predispositions remains hotly debated. To address this issue, I have shown that population-level analyses of relative sports performance can estimate sex differences in competitiveness. Furthermore, I have demonstrated (1) a robust sex difference in running, with proportionally 2-4 times more males running relatively fast in all U.S. populations and that (2) this difference has not diminished since the mid-1980s, despite increased athletic opportunities for females. Here I show that the sex difference in relative performance for U.S. swimmers was substantial in the 1970s but has now disappeared. The strikingly different patterns in swimming and running imply that, although sex differences in competitiveness may indicate evolved predispositions, they also reflect social and developmental factors.

The Mismatch Hypothesis: Testosterone and Group Functioning

Matt, L. Newman, Bard College, newman@bard.edu, *Jennifer G. Sellers*, Green Mountain College, sellersj@greenmtn.edu; *Pranj H. Mehta*, University of Texas at Austin, mehta@mail.utexas.edu; *Robert A. Josephs*, University of Texas at Austin, josephs@psy.utexas.edu

Why do some individuals strive for high status, while others actively avoid it? Research with humans and a variety of animal species suggests that baseline levels of testosterone relate to one's desired level of status. The present studies tested the prediction that a mismatch between preferred and current level of status would lead to impaired functioning. In Studies 1 and 2, low T participants reported greater emotional arousal, focused more on their status, and showed impaired analytical performance in a high status position. High T participants showed this pattern in a low status position. Study 3 demonstrated that T predicts behavior better than self-report measures of dominance. Taken together, these studies suggest that a mismatch between desired and current level of status creates a motivation to regain one's desired level of status. More broadly, these findings suggest that baseline T levels are a good predictor of behavior in social situations.

Fluctuating asymmetry in teeth does not predict fluctuating asymmetry in other cranial features

Michael J. Frederick, University at Albany, mf7147@albany.edu

Fluctuating asymmetry (FA) averaged over a number of bilateral traits has consistently been found to be negatively correlated with fitness. Researchers differ in terms of which collection of traits they use to calculate FA. Many have used teeth measurements, and this 'dental FA' provides a good index of developmental instability. Although dental FA and other indices of FA based on facial or body asymmetry all appear to be measuring developmental instability, no one has examined the relationship between dental FA and these other indices. This study measured 40 human crania for dental FA and cranial (non-dental) FA. Despite similar levels of FA on average for the dental and non-dental indices, there was no relationship between the two. These results, along with published reports that facial FA does not predict body FA, suggest that FA may consist of many subsets that are not reliably correlated with one another.

3:50 – 4:30 p.m. *Break*

The Honors Center (in College Hall)

4:30 – 5:50 p.m.

Session 3: CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

The magic that binds us: Stress, superstitions, and the formation of rituals

Donald T. Markle, University of Georgia, dmarkle@uga.edu

Religion, ritual, and superstition play an important role in human life. Each of these practices often requires an element of magical thinking on the part of the believer. However, the idea that magical thinking, the belief that one's thoughts, words or actions will produce an outcome that defies the normal rules of cause and effect, could provide a gain in inclusive fitness has not yet been fully explored. In examining this issue data will be presented from at least 75 students from the University of Georgia, who have participated in an experiment designed to measure the influence magical thinking has on performance. In the experiment participants will be placed unexpectedly into a stressful situation and asked complete a timed cognitive exam with the aid of magical beliefs or without. Results will be discussed in relation to theories of stress management, the theory of multilevel selection, and the development of religion.

The Role of Race and Gender in the Persistence of Learned Fear

Carlos David Navarrete, Harvard University, cdn@wjh.harvard.edu, Andreas Olsson,

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Sidanius, Harvard University, sidanius@wjh.harvard.edu

Research in aversive conditioning demonstrates that fears towards evolutionarily "prepared" targets such as spiders and snakes resist extinction. Employing this paradigm we investigate the interactive nature between gender and race to the extent that they are important in the persistence of anxious arousal in a fear conditioning procedure (Habituation, Acquisition, Extinction). Preliminary analyses show that conditioned arousal towards an outgroup target (as measured in skin conductance response conditioned by electric shock) persists during the Extinction phase only when paired with a male member of the outgroup. Conditioned arousal returned to baseline for all other race/gender targets. Potential moderators of conditioned fear such as intergroup contact, ethnic identity, and explicit/implicit intergroup bias are explored. The results are consistent with the notion that outgroup males may have posed persistent fitness threats to ingroup individuals throughout our evolutionary history.

Teaching Evolutionary Psychology through a Novel of an Upper Paleolithic Society

Gordon Bear, Ramapo College; gbear@ramapo.edu

A novel set in Siberia 20,000 years ago vividly illustrates problems and principles of evolutionary psychology. *Reindeer Moon* (Houghton Mifflin, 1987) is a coming-of-age tale whose central character is a girl living in a small band of foragers. The author, Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, is well-qualified to imagine this tribal society, for she lived with the San of the Kalahari Desert as a young woman, the daughter of the anthropologist Lorna Marshall. The plants and animals, tools, clothing, and climate of the novel are also authentic, closely based on the author's reading of the archeological record. Richly illustrated is the dictum that the evolution of human beings consisted largely of adaptation to one another, for the character becomes enmeshed in the social life of her society: arranged marriages that unite families, bitter divorces that divide them, shifting status hierarchies, cooperating and competing lineages - all manner of schemes and manipulations. Major evolutionary themes emerge in a highly accessible way.

Liberal and conservative religions as different socio-ecological strategies

Ingrid Storm, Binghamton University Istorm1@binghamton.edu; *David Sloan Wilson*, Binghamton University dwilson@binghamton.edu

In evolutionary theory, the existence of religion has been explained as a behavioral strategy adaptive on the group level. This theory can also account for the variance between different religious groups. From an evolutionary perspective, one would expect different environmental and social factors to result in different forms of religiosity. Unique data collected using the Experience Sampling Method (ESM), where participants report their behaviors and experiences on a moment-by-moment basis were used to examine differences between liberal and conservative Protestant high school students. The results show that the conservative Protestants are generally more satisfied, family-oriented and sociable than liberal Protestants, but also more dependent on their social environment. The numerous differences between conservative and liberal protestant denominations suggest that they cannot be ranked along a single continuum of religiosity from “weak” to “strong”. Instead they appear to be qualitatively different socio-ecological strategies, both adaptive in a multiple-niche environment.

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Informal Panel: The Academic Job Market from the Eyes of Four Evolutionary Psychologists

Rebecca Burch, Robert Deaner, Maryanne Fisher, Daniel Kruger

7:30 p.m.

***Dinner (on your own)
(Don't forget drink discount at Bacchus!)***

Saturday, April 14th

The Honors Center (in College Hall)

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Business Meeting (Where does NEEPS go from here? All are invited.)

The Parker Theatre

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Poster Setup (36”*48” poster boards on easels will be provided along with paper clips for attaching posters of this size)

Registration / Refreshments

Morning Session

10:30 – 11:50 a.m.

Session 4: NEUROSCIENCE

From neuroeconomics to evolutionary psychology

Benoit Hardy-Vallée, University of Waterloo, benoithv@gmail.com

In the recent years, the neurological underpinnings of decision-making (“neuroeconomics”) have been a subject of intensive investigations. This research is relevant for evolutionary psychology although, unfortunately, interactions between these fields have been scarce. In this talk, I would like to propose two strategies, the adaptive and the architectural, that bridge the gap between neuroeconomics and evolutionary psychology. First, robust findings in neuroeconomics could lead to adaptive hypotheses. Second, evolutionary psychology can contribute to the interpretation of behavioral and neural data and can suggest further experiments. In the second part of this talk, I will illustrate these two strategies with an example: fairness. Reviewing behavioral and neural data, I suggest that fairness is a psychological adaptation and that unfairness is non-adaptive. Then I argue that neural and behavioral data reveal a collection of adaptive problem-solving mechanisms that account for fairness in social exchange.

A Neuropsychological Investigation of the Modern Belief in Biological Teleology

Kilian J. Garvey, The University of New England, kgarvey@une.edu

While the theory of biological evolution by natural selection is generally regarded by scientists as the single most robust, best-supported, most comprehensive scientific theory ever formulated nearly 50% of the general US population believes it is fundamentally flawed. Some explanations suggest that the aversion to Darwin’s theory comes from its complexity. While this may be so it will be claimed that the more parsimonious explanation is that when the theory of evolution is seen as challenging a proximate worldview that purports to lead to an ultimate reward state it will be rejected for existential, not scientific reasons. Two neuropsychological approaches (inefficient interhemispheric interaction and an overactive sympathetic nervous system) were used to identify attributes that lead some people to reject evolutionary theory and accept theological explanations. Measures of higher negative affect, intolerance of ambiguity, lower need for cognition, and higher levels of paranoia were found to predict confidence in creationism.

The Evolutionary Cognitive Neuroscience of Deception

Jamie Gorman, Montclair State University, gorman.jamie@gmail.com, Julian Paul Keenan, Montclair State University, keenanj@mail.montclair.edu

The ability to deceive has received significant attention in terms of evolution. However, there is no integrated theory as to the evolved relationship of deception of others, deception of self, and the ability to detect deception. Using cognitive neuroscience as a framework, we propose a unified model that may in fact account for how these abilities evolved.

The neuron-evolution of higher-consciousness:

Julian Paul Keenan, Montclair State University, keenanj@mail.montclair.edu, **Jamie Gorman**, Montclair State University, gorman.jamie@gmail.com, **Jennifer Romanowski**, Montclair State University, jar_813@yahoo.com

Dedicating brain regions to any cognition or behavior is an expensive process in terms of metabolic rates. To understand the evolution of the brain, one must weigh costs and benefits. Here we examine what the evolutionary advantages of higher-order cognition may be by applying a neuron-cognitive approach. Specifically, correlates of self-awareness, Theory of Mind, and deception will be examined in terms of cost and benefit, dealing the concept that there may be dedicated neural structures for these abilities.

The Neural Correlates of an Evolved Network for Perspective Taking

Jennifer Romanowski, Montclair State University, jar_813@yahoo.com, **Julian Paul Keenan**, Montclair State University, keenanj@mail.montclair.edu

Self-awareness (SA) is a phenomenon that occurs only in the great apes and possibly dolphins and elephants. Much controversy has evolved from studying the neurological underpinnings of SA and the localization and functions of neural structures that are necessary for this ability. This study applied Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) to the frontal cortex during a spatial perspective-taking task. The task was aimed to investigate both first and third person perspectives. Results showed that disruptions caused by TMS induced disruptions to the right prefrontal cortex disrupted the first person perspective, or SA, and did not have an effect on the third person perspective. These results support some evolutionary theories that self-awareness evolved in conjunction with other right hemisphere related abilities.

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch (on your own)

Afternoon Sessions

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Poster Session

(See page 19 for abstracts)

3:00 – 4:50 p.m.

Session 5: REPRODUCTIVE AND SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

The Impact of Familial Relationships on Distress from Infidelity

Ashley Hoben, Department of Psychology, St. Mary's University, ashley.hoben@smu.ca,
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Maryanne Fisher, St. Mary's University mlfisher@smu.ca, 902-491-6275

A plethora of studies have addressed whether a sex difference exists in feelings of distress resulting from sexual versus emotional infidelity. However, we are not aware of any investigation examining the variance in impact caused by the identity of the person engaged in the infidelity with a mate. We explored participants' distress when their mate hypothetically engaged in sexual and emotional relationships with various kin and acquaintances. Our results indicate that infidelity involving closely related kin causes the most distress, and that involving strangers causes the least distress. Neither the type of infidelity, nor the participants' sex, influenced this trend. This difference in distress could be due to perceived breaches in trust among family members, or because the individual is concerned that kin have entered a relationship with someone who is unfaithful. These points will be discussed, along with ideas for future research for investigations on infidelity.

Androbivalence: Men Don't Care

Maryanne Fisher, Department of Psychology, St. Mary's University, mlfisher@smu.ca, **Ashley Hoben**, St. Mary's University ashley.hoben@smu.ca, **Anthony Cox**, Dalhousie University, amcox@cs.dal.ca, **Melissa Gray**, St. Mary's University, melissa.gray@smu.ca, **Loriann Williams**, St. Mary's University, loriann.williams@smu.ca, **Angel McGee**, St. Mary's University, angel.mcgee@smu.ca

Whereas women's alliances, use of gossip, and social hierarchies have been the focus of much research, little attention has been paid to the possibility that men are ambivalent to other's relationships. We used three different conditions to test the hypothesis that men do not care about other's relationships. First, we explored whether men would be willing, if single, to pursue the current partner of their father, son, friend, and stranger, which could be deleterious to these relationships. Second, we investigated whether men would attempt to break-up the relationships of others (kin, friends, coworker, stranger) when they disapproved. Not interfering could be harmful to those involved. Finally, we examined attitudes towards rivals of intrasexual competition. Whereas women would be distressed if the rival was more attractive, younger, wealthier, athletic and intelligent, the majority of men were distressed only with the rival being wealthier, and ambivalent towards other features.

Paternal assurance tactics in violent men

Rebecca L. Burch, *State University of New York at Oswego*, rburch@oswego.edu

This study examined these paternal assurance tactics (insemination prevention, counter insemination strategies, pregnancy termination, and differential investment in children) in a sample of 258 court mandated abusive males. Sexual jealousy (insemination prevention) was cited more than any other factor in the instigation and escalation of conflict. Sexual jealousy also triggered increases in mate guarding and sexual violence, but not physical violence. Mateguarding behaviors nearly doubled, while pressuring the partner to have sex in a way she didn't want tripled and forcing the partner to have sex more than quadrupled. In terms of pregnancy termination, violence toward the female partner shifted away from sexual coercion when the male knew she was pregnant, and shifted into physical violence. The presence of children was not only correlated with increased aggression against the partner, but also with physical punishment of those children. Levels of sexually motivated behaviors and physical punishment of children were correlated.

Family, Friends, and Lovers: An Examination of Reciprocal Altruism

Anthony Cox, *Faculty of Computer Science*, amcox@cs.dal.ca, **Angel McGee**,
St. Mary's University angel.mcgee@smu.ca, **Maryanne Fisher**, *St. Mary's University*,
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Reciprocal altruism theory suggests that one must be vigilant about cheaters, as they pose a cost to the altruist by not returning an owed favor. Hence, individuals should be aware of the probability that a favor will be returned. We provided 185 students with 10 relationships, which they ranked with respect to whom they would most want to be owed a favor by (i.e., the debtor). We proposed that debtors with a high degree of genetic relatedness to the participant, and the participants' mates, would be ranked highly, and those with no genetic relatedness or involvement in a mating relationship would be ranked low. Close kin rely upon reciprocal altruism for shared resources and childcare (Hrdy, 1999), whereas mating relationships are social contracts that involve continual reciprocity (Trivers, 1971). Furthermore, long duration relationships are more susceptible to developing reciprocity (Trivers, 1971). In general, our results support our predictions.

Partner Choice Creates Competitive Altruism in Humans

Pat Barclay, *Cornell University*, Pjb46@cornell.edu

Reciprocal altruism has been the backbone of research on the evolution of altruistic behaviour towards non-kin, but recent research has applied costly signalling theory to this problem. In addition to signalling resources or abilities, public generosity could function as a costly signal of cooperative intent. When future interaction partners can choose with whom they wish to interact, this could lead to competition to be more generous than others. By using a cooperative monetary game with and without opportunities for partner choice, we show here that people actively compete to be more generous than others when they can benefit from being chosen for cooperative partnerships. We also found evidence for increased skepticism of altruistic signals when the potential reputational benefits for dishonest signalling were high. Thus, this work supports the hypothesis that public generosity can be a signal of cooperative intent, which people sometimes "fake" when conditions permit it.

4:50 – 5:30 p.m.

Break

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Plenary Address

Gordon Gallup, Jr., University at Albany, SUNY, Department of Psychology

"Competition for paternity: The impact of evolution on human genital morphology and behavior."

6:30-???

Dinner on your own (Don't forget drink discount at Bacchus)

Conference Ends

Poster Abstracts

When it rains it pours: having admirers when in a relationship

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Questionnaires were administered to 560 undergraduates to investigate the mechanisms underlying the increase in dating opportunities when a person enters into a new relationship. Over two thirds noticed this occurring and 92.6% of these reported they had experienced it more than once. The majority (80%) of new suitors knew the participant was in a new relationship. Although it is possible that this is the result of increased confidence when in a new relationship, no behavioral changes corresponded to this effect. Many of the responses indicated that this increased interest was a result of jealousy. In support of this, the majority of people who expressed an interest were aware that the participant was in a new relationship. However, reasons given for expressed interest, behaviors of new suitor, and participant explanation of the increased interest did not appear to differ by whether the suitor was aware of the new relationship.

The effect of unprotected sex on anxious symptoms

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To determine whether semen exposure leads to fewer anxious symptoms, questionnaires were administered undergraduates at SUNY Oswego that included several questions regarding sexual behaviors, semen exposure, and the Beck Anxiety Inventory. Frequency of unprotected vaginal or anal intercourse showed similar patterns in anxious symptoms as previous studies have shown in depressive symptoms. Those who engaged in more unprotected sex, and therefore, more semen exposure showed lower levels of Anxiety Inventory Totals. Items on the BAI were also divided into physiological and psychological symptoms. As with previous findings on PMS, certain physiological symptoms showed a greater correlation with semen exposure.

The Relationship between Hypothesized Psychological Genetic Fitness Indicators and Indices of Mating Success

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Previous studies have shown that measuring the actual number of offspring an individual produces in modern, post-contraceptive societies is not a valid measure of reproductive success. Instead, researchers have created diverse measures of mating success; a proxy for reproductive success. This study is attempting to create a valid measure of mating success, which asks participants about the *quality* of their most recent long-term and short-term sexual relationships from an evolutionary perspective. Although this study is still in progress, it is anticipated that approximately 100 males and 100 females will participate in this study. Measures of intelligence, humor, self-esteem, theory of mind, fluctuating asymmetry and currently accepted measures of mating success will be used to assess the validity of this new measure.

Rough sex: motives, behaviors, semen displacement

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In a sample of male and female undergraduates, we examined the extent of violent acts in romantic relationships, the triggers for that violence, and specifically the role of sexual jealousy. Participants were asked a series of questions regarding sexual aggression and rough behaviors during sex, as well as abusive behaviors in the relationship. Aggressive behaviors were increased in situations that involved male sexual jealousy. Being separated from a sexual partner was the second most common trigger for rough sex, particularly for men. There are some interesting changes in rough sex, such as large increases in displacement and a decrease in the latency for the female to orgasm. This supports the idea that rough sex can aid in semen displacement and may be triggered by an increased probability in female infidelity. This supports previous data examining the sexual strategy of semen displacement (Gallup, et al., 2003).

Handgrip strength predicts body morphology, aggressive behavior, and promiscuity in males

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Handgrip strength (HGS) is a non-invasive measure of physical health and can be easily measured using a hand dynamometer. HGS has been shown to be negatively correlated with disability, morbidity, and mortality rates in adults. HGS is highly heritable, indicative of blood testosterone levels, and levels of fat free mass. It is commonly used for assessing child development, predicting post-operative complications, and to study the effects of aging in human populations. In this study we investigated whether HGS is related to measures of body morphology (shoulder / hip, waist / hip, and 2D:4D ratios), aggressive behaviors, and sexual history in 84 male and 65 female college students. Results reveal that HGS is positively correlated to shoulder breadth, aggressive behavior, and promiscuity in males. HGS is not significantly correlated to any of these measures in females. We propose that HGS may be a signal for genetic quality in males.

Knowing the Triggers of Jealousy in Mates: A Facet of Mating Intelligence

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Male (N = 127) and female (N = 329) participants were presented with 10 items – each with three infidelity scenarios as options (some were emotional in nature while others were sexually laden). In a prior phase, members of the opposite-sex had indicated which option would be most distressing to them. In a cross-sex mind-reading task, participants were asked to guess which infidelity options were most rated by opposite-sex individuals as distressing. Mating intelligence scores were calculated for each participant based on how well he or she accurately guessed the responses of the opposite-sex. Participants also completed a measure of knowing general thoughts of the opposite sex (as a discriminant validation index) as well as measures of general and emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence scores were most predictive of this mating-intelligence ability in males, while general intelligence was strongly related to this ability for females.

Further Evidence for a Paternal Resemblance Bias

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Unlike maternity, paternity is always uncertain and therefore males may have been selected to invest preferentially in children that they physically resemble. The existence of a paternal resemblance bias was examined by presenting high-school yearbook photos of males and females as randomly mated parents, and participants chose the photo that best resembled this pair's probable offspring from an array of the "parents" infant pictures. The arrays of infant pictures were presented in three conditions that included: 1) the "mother's" own infant picture, 2) the "father's" own infant picture, and 3) both "parents" infant pictures. In the first condition, participants did not identify the mother's infant picture more often than by chance. Conversely, in the second condition, participants chose the father's picture more often than by chance. In the third condition, participants identified the father's picture more often and attributed the picture's likeness more to the father. Consistent with evolutionary theory, participants' choices may reflect the presence of an underlying paternal resemblance bias.

Patriarchy, male competition, and excess male mortality

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Men die at higher rates than women across ages and societies. This is a result of behavioral and physiological strategies that are on average riskier for men than for women. These strategies are products of intrasexual competition and intrasexual selection pressures which are stronger for men than for women, because of sex differences in parental investment and limitations on reproductive output. We predict that societies fostering male competition will show higher Male:Female Mortality Ratios (M:F MR). Patriarchy is defined as the degree to which elite men control resources, women, and other men- reflecting a skewed resource distribution that would foster competition. The inverse of patriarchy may be female empowerment, which the United Nations assesses via the Gender Empowerment Measure (UN-GEM). The overall M:F MR was inversely correlated with the UN-GEM. A stepwise linear regression including GDP found that gender empowerment accounted for 51% of the variance in the M:F MR.

Wanting what you can't have: increased interest in people who are "taken"

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In a sample of 560 undergraduates, we examined increased attraction toward newly coupled people. Approximately one half of respondents reported being more attracted to a person who recently entered a new relationship. Those who were not in relationships were more likely to experience the effect. The majority of participants knew this person was in a relationship. This usually occurred 2 to 3 weeks after the relationship began. When giving a reason for this attraction, over one half reported that they wanted what they couldn't have- they were jealous of the new partner. Another 10% couldn't identify a reason. Although many reported there was something different about the newly coupled person, no behaviors correlated with the effect. Because knowing the person was in a relationship played a role in the increased attraction, but no behaviors were correlated, it is possible that just being in a relationship is sufficient for increased attention.

Dissociation in Public Health: The Psychology of Allostasis

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Studies of how biopsychology affects and effects the phenomenology of consciousness can address how consciousness has evolved to deal with stress. Self-awareness and theory of mind comprise the fundamental module of consciousness. Dissociation is the phenomenological corollary of deafferentation, which mitigate awareness of potential stress to maintain biopsychological homeostasis. This was validated by a pilot study of the Anthropology Dissociation Experiences Scale, which was developed to measure quantities and varieties of dissociation experiences in general populations. This study indicated a statistically significant positive correlation between stress and dissociation. Also, neither stress nor dissociation correlated to well-being, indicating that dissociation mitigates the negative effects of stress to maintain homeostasis. These preliminary findings support evidence that meditation, a form of dissociation, is effective in reducing risk factors leading to stress-related diseases. Furthermore, a possible stress-reducing biological mechanism of dissociation has been discovered. The potential public health benefits of these findings are great.

Men behave more altruistically toward women with nipple erection

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In a sample of undergraduates at SUNY Oswego, pictures of women were viewed and rated in terms of attractiveness. Half the photos displayed nipple erection and all of the faces in the photos were obscured to prevent emotional cues. How altruistically the participants would behave, and how willing they would be to ask favors of the woman in the photos were examined. Males were more likely to behave altruistically toward the women in the photos. Across genders there were no differences in altruistic behavior toward women with nipple erection. However, when each gender was examined, men were more willing to behave altruistically toward women with nipple erection. Nipple erection had no effect on altruistic behavior in women. The largest differences in men were found in behaviors that required more time spent with the woman. This supports the model that nipple erection has evolved as a sexual signal and elicits male behavior.

Psychophysiological Measurement of Human Sexual Attraction Based on Fertility Status Detected through Odor Changes across the Female Life Span

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In regards to sexual selection, previous research demonstrates that men can detect the relative fertility of women across menstrual phases based upon scent. This present study investigates the detection of possible changes in odor across the life span. Odor samples were acquired from donors in five conditions: (1) females ages 18 to 25, (2) females ages 26 to 35, (3) females ages 36 to 44, (4) females who are menopausal, and (5) men. Male participants rated each odor sample according to intensity, pleasantness, attractiveness and femininity. Changes in levels of electrodermal activity of male participants were measured during the introduction of each odor sample using a biofeedback system. Subjective ratings of attractiveness and electrodermal activity vary systematically with the age of the female odor-donor.

Voice Attractiveness Varies Across the Menstrual Cycle

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The human larynx is a target for fluctuating hormones. Recent evidence has shown that menstruation, pregnancy, and menopause all involve fluctuations of hormones in the female body, which can influence vocal production. The present study investigates ratings of voice attractiveness as a function of where women were in their menstrual cycle, and whether hormonal birth control can impact voice preferences. Results show a significant increase in ratings of voice attractiveness as risk of conception increases across the menstrual cycle in naturally cycling women. There was no effect of vocal attractiveness and conception risk in women who were using hormonal birth control. Human evolutionary history could have placed a premium on the transmission of biologically relevant information in vocal production, especially at times when visual ability was limited, for instance at night. Vocal production appears to serve as an honest signal regarding mate choice and reproductive opportunity.

Are women with nipple erection more attractive?

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As a result of the evolution of bipedal locomotion in humans, sexual selection seems to have favored permanent breast enlargement to signal ovulatory potential (Gallup, 1982). However, whether nipple erection also serves as a signal is unclear. In a sample of 100 undergraduates, men and women viewed pictures of real women with and without nipple erection. The faces were obscured to prevent emotional cues. First of all, men and women had different reactions to the pictures themselves. Males rated their reactions to the pictures as significantly higher in positive categories such as affectionate, friendly and excited, while females reported being more depressed, angry and jealous. These differences were more drastic when the pictures displayed nipple erection. Females showed little differences in ratings of their own feelings or those displayed by the pictures. However, males rated the pictures as being significantly more sexy, affectionate, happy and excited.

Male Facial Attractiveness Predicts Body Morphology and Strength

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Twenty-eight male facial photographs were collected and rated for attractiveness by male and female independent raters. Male and female ratings of attractiveness predicted shoulder to hip ratios (SHR) as a measure of sexually dimorphic body morphology in males ($r = .441, p = .021$ and $r = .414, p = .032$ respectively). Grip strength was also correlated with facial attractiveness ratings by other males ($r = .384, p = .048$). In addition, individual differences in grip strength predicted subjects' SHR ($r = .398, p < .01$) and number of sexual partners ($r = .306, p = .038$). Our data suggest that cues to testosterone levels influence attractiveness ratings of male faces. Interestingly, 2D:4D ratios did not correlate with any other measures of testosterone, nor did it predict ratings of facial attractiveness.

Morphological Predictors of Pre-Schizophrenic Traits

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The second to fourth digit ratio (2D:4D) is a sexually dimorphic trait widely used as a proxy of prenatal testosterone levels. Low 2D:4D are related to the high prenatal testosterone and low estrogen levels. In this study we examined digit ratios, directional asymmetry of 2D:4D (DA), waist-to-hip ratios (WHR), and shoulder-to-hip ratios (SHR) as indicators of predisposed schizophrenic tendencies using the Schizotypal Personality Questionnaire (SPQ) in a sample of 54 female and 38 male undergraduates. SPQ scores were negatively correlated with right 2D:4D ($r = -0.341; p = 0.001; n = 92$); $r = -0.332 (p = 0.021, n = 38)$ for males and $r = -0.385 (p = 0.002, n = 54)$ for females, and DA ($r = -0.176; p = 0.047; n = 92$). These findings suggest that 2D:4D ratios are related to preschizophrenic tendencies. However, the fact that digit ratios and SPQ scores were not related to body configuration, as a measure of the activational properties of sex hormones, suggests that the effect on SPQ scores occurs as consequences of the organizational effects of testosterone operating prenatally.

Do lovers coo across cultures?

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In all types of attachment relationships, partners alter their vocalizations in a somewhat characteristic manner. They tend to communicate with each other by using higher pitch, more elaborate pitch patterns, and slower speed than when communicating with other people. This acoustic pattern is characteristic of infant-directed speech, infant cries, and whining. A fourth type of vocalization that appears to be structured most similarly to infant-directed speech is the type of speech used between lovers, termed romantic speech. We examined romantic speech portrayed on film, using samples from English language and foreign language films. We were guided by the following questions: 1. is romantic speech acoustically similar to other types of attachment vocalizations?; and 2. is speech between romantic partners constructed similarly across cultures? This project is a preliminary investigation on romantic speech, and will be followed by a series of experiments designed to understand its form and function.

Menstruation Starts Earlier in Girls from Extended Families, Father Present or Not

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Age at menarche was younger with more total person-years during which adult relatives had lived in the girl's household ($r = -.32$ for 25 collegians, $-.44$ for 36 graduate students). The pattern held both when the father was present ($-.41$ over the aggregate batches) and when absent ($r = -.61$). The timing of menarche varies widely from girl to girl. Causes, correlates, and consequences are numerous (Ellis, 2004, reviews 357 papers). Variance in genotype controls about half the variance in age of menarche. Environmental variables include biological and psychological factors and social structure - e.g., the quality and quantity of the girl's nutrition, the warmth of her relationship with her mother, and the extent of the polygyny in her society. A prominent environmental factor is the girl's biological father. Girls raised without their father reach menarche earlier than girls from two-parent homes. The effect seems independent of the stress common in fatherless homes and a matter of degree, in that longer absence and earlier absence are associated with earlier menarche, and so is less parental involvement on the part of a father who is continuously present (Ellis, 2004, pp. 940-942, reviews relevant data from 19 studies). The effect interests evolutionary psychologists because it raises the possibility of a facultative adaptation sensitive to paternal investment that controls puberty. Research on the father's influence has been largely focused on nuclear families. We report here a serendipitous finding from a study that quantified the extent to which a family is nuclear or extended.

The Relationship between Mate Preferences and Sociosexuality

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Because men and women faced different evolutionary challenges, they differ in the traits they look for in a sexual partner. Men typically look for youth, health, and sexual promiscuity, while women look for success, education, and wealth. Both sexes, however, can use one of two main mating strategies: a long term strategy in which the person looks for a long term monogamous mate, or a short term strategy in which the person has sex with multiple partners for shorter periods of time. In this study participants were asked to complete the Sociosexuality Orientation Inventory as well as a mate preference questionnaire, which asks participants to rate an ideal mate on specific traits. We hypothesize that participants who score high on sociosexuality will prefer different traits in an ideal mate than those who score low on sociosexuality (attraction and sexual promiscuity for the former, family orientation and commitment for the latter).

Actual versus Ideal Mate Preferences

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The current research investigates differences between mate preferences for ideal and real partners. Previous research has shown sex differences in the types of traits men and women prefer in their partners. Because men and women face different evolutionary challenges the two sexes differ in the traits they look for in a sexual partner. Men typically prefer health and sexual promiscuity, while women prefer success and wealth. This research explores whether men and women differ not only on the characteristics they prefer in an ideal mate (the methods used in previous research) but also if they differ on the characteristics they prefer in an actual mate. We hypothesize that sex differences in mate preferences will be larger when participants rate an ideal mate than an actual mate and that there may be an interaction between sociosexuality and mate preferences.

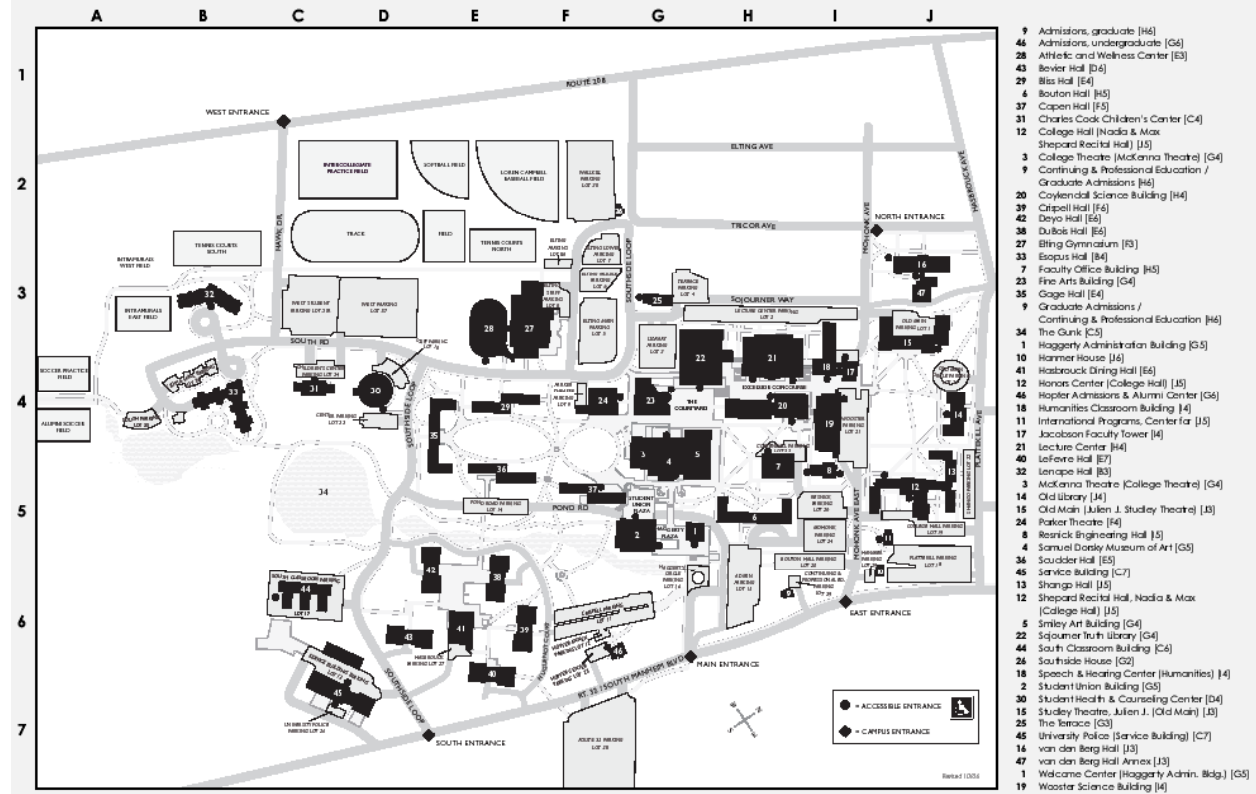
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